

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9606

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15806

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TGEN, UR, US

SUBJECT: US-USSR COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS: COMMUNICATIONS: ACCESS OF
SOVIETS TO EMBASSY ON SOVIET-TO-U.S. MESSAGES

REF: (A) MOSCOW 7330, (B) MOSCOW 14770, (C) MOSCOW 13555,
(D) STATE 224565, (E) MOSCOW 15390

SUMMARY: A LONG HISTORY OF UNSATISFACTORY RESULTS FROM USE OF INTERNATIONAL MAILS HAS LED U.S. AND SOVIET COUNTERPARTS OF THE BILATERAL SPECIALIZED AGREEMENTS TO A GREATER USE OF EMBASSY CHANNELS FOR THE TRANSMITTAL OF DOCUMENTS AND MESSAGES. HOWEVER, SOVIET COUNTERPARTS HERE ARE LOATH TO SEND THEIR MESSENGERS TO THE EMBASSY ON THE WELL-GROUNDED ASSUMPTION THAT THEY WILL NOT GET PAST THE MILITIA. THE EMBASSY IS ENCOURAGING INTERESTED SOVIET ORGANIZATIONS IN MOSCOW TO HAVE THEIR MESSENGERS CLEARED FOR THE DELIVERY OF MATERIALS, AND THEREBY ESTABLISH A SMALL, ADDITIONAL PRECEDENT FOR THE ACCESS OF SOVIETS TO THE EMBASSY. EVEN IF THIS IS NOT SUCCESSFUL, WE WILL AT LEAST HAVE EXPOSED THE FATUITY OF THE SOVIET LINE THAT ACCESS TO THE EMBASSY IS NOT A PROBLEM. SOVIET EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BILATERAL, AYKAZYAN, HAS RECENTLY INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO HELP; WE SUGGEST THE DEPARTMENT FOLLOW UP DURING AYKAZYAN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON LATER THIS MONTH. END SUMMARY

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1. BEGIN BACKGROUND. ON COMMUNICATIONS UNDER THE SPECIALIZED

BILATERALS, THE PRACTICE OF THE EMBASSY IS TO HAVE A DRIVER HAND-DELIVER ALL MESSAGES SENT TO SOVIET SIDE IN MOSCOW. EXCEPT IN HIGHLY UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES, SCIENCE OFFICE DOES NOT, HOWEVER, "SEND A DRIVER" TO PICK UP A LETTER FROM THE SOVIETS INTENDED FOR THE U.S. WE DECLINE TO DO THIS FOR SEVERAL REASONS: (1) WE JUST DON'T HAVE THE

NUMBER OF DRIVERS THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED;(2) PICK-UPS HAVE PROVED FAR MORE DIFFICULT AND TIME-CONSUMING TO ORCHESTRATE THAN DELIVERIES, FOR WHICH A SCHEDULE CAN BE AND HAS BEEN ARRANGED; (3) MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT WOULD DESTROY RECIPROCITY: WE TAKE ITEMS TO THEM; THEY CAN BRING THEM TO US.

2. ALTHOUGH MOST SOVIET ORGANIZATIONS PROTEST THAT THEY CANNOT BRING LETTERS TO THE EMBASSY BECAUSE THEY LACK DRIVERS, WE SUSPECT THAT A BIGGER OBSTACLE IS THEIR FEAR (APPARENTLY WELL-FOUNDED) THAT THE DRIVER WILL BE PREVENTED FROM ENTRY BY THE SOVIET MILITIA OUTSIDE.

THIS WAS MOST RECENTLY DEMONSTRATED BY THE MILITIA'S PREVENTING GOSPLAN'S DRIVER FROM DELIVERING TO THE EMBASSY A LETTER FROM BEZRUKOV TO AUFENKAMP (01.010205, REF B).

3. SUCH INCIDENTS APPARENTLY LEAD MANY OF THE SOVIETS INVOLVED IN THE COOPERATION AGREEMENTS TO USE MOSCOW MAIL SYSTEM TO SEND LETTERS TO THE EMBASSY FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE U.S. THIS PRACTICE HAS CAUSED DELAYS, SOME OF WHICH WERE NOT VERY AMUSING, E.G.,

(A) IN FEBRUARY, GLEBOV (01.03) MAILED A LETTER TO THE EMBASSY ASKING A U.S.-SIDE REPLY WITHIN THREE WEEKS. UPON RECEIPT OF LETTER, EMBOFF INFORMED GLEBOV THAT THE LETTER HAD TAKEN TWELVE DAYS TO GET FROM SCST TO THE EMBASSY, A DISTANCE OF FOUR BLOCKS.

(B) ON APRIL 12, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (01.05) SOVDEL ARRIVED IN U.S. AND INFORMED U.S. HOSTS THAT THEY "HAD GIVEN" THEIR COMMENTS ON DRAFT TO THE EMBASSY - SINCE THE DEPARTMENT HADN'T RECEIVED THEM, THE INFERENCE WAS THAT THE EMBASSY SCIENCE OFFICE WAS HOLDING THE DOCUMENT. EMBASSY IN FACT RECEIVED LENGTHY SOVIET DOCUMENT 13 APRIL AFTERNOON IN THE MAIL. (THAT EVENT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY EVEN TOPPED BY THAT VERY DELEGATION. SCIENCE OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR S&T AGREE-CONFIDENTIAL

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MENT 24 MAY RECEIVED IN THE MAIL A LETTER FROM ZUBARAYEV THANKING FORMER FOR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN PREPARATION OF THE MEETING AND PRO-

VIDING LIST OF MEMBERS OF SOVDEL AND TRAVEL DETAILS. LETTER WAS DATED 17 MARCH).

(C) SOVIETS' MAILING OF URBAN ENVIRONMENTDEL LETTER (REFS C AND D) EVIDENTLY SCUTTLED THE VISIT.

(D) MOST RECENTLY, SOVIETS APPARENTLY MAILED LETTER TO DUNNING (ENERGY: GAS: 08.05) TO EMBASSY SEPTEMBER 10, AND 13. LETTER HAS NOT BEEN RECEIVED.

4. EMBOFF RESPONSIBLE FOR ENERGY AGREEMENT HAD SENT LETTER SEPT 9 TO ENERGY EXEC SEC MAL'TSEV IN ORDER TO ADDRESS SEVERAL CONTINUING ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS WITH THAT AGREEMENT. LETTER, COPIES OF WHICH WERE POUCHED TO OES/APT/SEP AND EUR/SOV/EXCHANGES, CONTAINS PARAGRAPH NOTING THAT SCIENCE OFFICE NOW HAS SOVIET-LOCAL EMPLOYEE WORKING ON GROUND FLOOR OF EMBASSY AND THAT COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE U.S. SIDE SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE SOVIET LOCAL. EMBOFF HAS EXPLAINED TO MAL'TSEV THAT LETTER WAS PROVIDED TO HELP HIM IN ANY "ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS" ARISING IN EXPLAINING TO PARTICIPANTS THAT LETTERS MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE EMBASSY. END BACKGROUND

5. DURING 17 SEPTEMBER FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR SCI COUNS LOEBNER, EMBOFF EXPLAINED TO AYKAZYAN INCIDENT WITH GOSPLAN'S DRIVER, EMBASSY'S NON-RECEIPT OF LETTER TO DUNNING, AND EMBOFF'S LETTER TO MAL'TSEV. AFTER AYKAZYAN REFLECTED DISPLEASURE AT DRIVER'S BEING STOPPED, EMBOFF OFFERED TO SEND LETTER TO AYKAZYAN EXPLAINING THAT LETTERS MUST BE DELIVERED TO THE EMBASSY AND THAT EMBASSY (SOVIET LOCAL BY NAME) WILL PROVIDE SIGNED RECEIPT. AYKAZYAN REQUESTED LETTER, AND HAS OFFERED TO FOLLOW UP WITH APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES. COPIES OF EMBOFF'S LETTER POUCHED EUR/SOV/EXCHANGES AND OES/APT/SEP.

6. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IS WORTHWHILE TO PURSUE THIS MATTER VIGOROUSLY; REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERKOSMOS AND THE SCST HAVE IN THE PAST ENTERED EMBASSY FOR DELIVERY OF MATERIALS UNDER THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS. EVEN IF WE FAIL TO WIDEN ACCESS, WE WILL AT LEAST BE IN A STRONGER POSITION TO
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COUNTER THE SOVIET LINE THAT ACCESS TO THE EMBASSY IS NOT A PROBLEM (SEE PARA 6B OF MOSCOW 15390).

7. ACTION REQUESTED: WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF THE DEPARTMENT INQUIRES RE PROGRESS IN SOLVING THESE PROBLEMS IN OCTOBER MEETINGS WITH AYKAZYAN IN WASHINGTON, AND INFORMS THE EMBASSY OF HIS RESPONSES.
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